Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A presence management apparatus connected to a first apparatus and a second apparatus via a network, for managing presence representing a dynamic attribute of a user using said first apparatus or said second apparatus, the presence management apparatus comprising:

a user table for registering therein for each user a user ID, a presence of said user, and a matching condition for the presence which is designated by said user with respect to another user;

presence update means for updating a first user's presence registered in said user table based on an update request received from the first apparatus, or updating and a second user's presence registered in said user table based on an update request received from the second apparatus, wherein the first user uses the first apparatus and the second user uses the second apparatus;

matching condition registration means for registering at said user table, a matching condition for another user's presence including the second user's presence received from the first apparatus and designated by the first user and a matching condition for another user's presence including the first user's presence received from the second apparatus and designated by the second user; and

matching decision means of a bidirectional matching decision between the first and second users, for deciding if the updated first user's presence matches the matching condition designated by the second user and the second user's presence

matches the registered matching condition designated by the first user, when the

matching condition registration means performs matching condition registration

processing ~~or the presence update means performs presence update processing for~~

~~the first user~~for the matching condition designated by the first user or the matching

condition designated by the second user, wherein

   when said presence update means updated the first user's presence or the

second user's presence registered in said user table based on an update request, in

a case that said first user's presence matches with the matching condition

designated by the second user and also the second user's presence matches with

the matching condition designated by the first user, said matching decision means

decides that both of the matching conditions relating to said first user's and second

user's presences coincide with each other.

   2. (Currently Amended) The presence management apparatus according to

claim 1, ~~further~~ comprising

   matching notification means for, after updating process by said presence

update means, notifying the first and/or the second apparatus that, ~~if~~when the

matching decision means ~~decides~~decided that ~~the first and second user's presences~~

~~are coincident with the matching conditions designated by the second and first users,~~

~~respectively, a match has occurred~~said first user's presence matches with the

matching condition designated by the second user and also the second user's

presence matches with the matching condition designated by the first user, the

matching has been satisfied.

3. (Original) The presence management apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the matching condition registered by the matching condition

registration means includes a combination of a logical sum and/or a logical product

of a condition for two or more presences.

4. (Currently Amended) The presence management apparatus according to

claim 1, comprising

~~wherein, for use~~a matching table for storing an identifier of the second user as

one of matching candidates for an identifier of the first user when it is decided that

the first user's presence matches the matching condition designated by the second

user and the second user's presence does not match the matching condition

designated by the first user~~, the matching decision means comprises matching~~

~~candidate storage means for storing therein an identifier of the first user and an~~

~~identifier of the second user as one of matching candidates and~~

~~wherein, if it is decided that the second user's presence matches the matching~~

~~condition designated by the first user, the matching decision means searches the~~

~~matching candidates, stored in the matching candidate storage means, to decide if~~

~~the first user's presence already matches the matching condition designated by the~~

~~second user.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The presence management apparatus according to

claim 4,

wherein, ~~if it is decided that the first user's presence does not match the~~

~~matching condition designated by the second user, the matching decision means~~

~~registers the identifier of the first user and the identifier of the second user as a~~

~~matching candidate~~when said matching decision means, in the decision process,

searches said user table and decides that the updated second user's presence

matches the matching condition designated by the first user, said matching decision

means searches said matching table to check whether the identifier of the second

user has been stored in the matching table as one of matching candidates for the

identifier of the first user.

6. (Currently Amended) The presence management apparatus according to

~~claim 4~~claim 5,

wherein, ~~if it is decided that the first user's presence matches the matching~~

~~condition designated by the second user,~~said matching decision means checks said

matching table, and when the identifier of the second user has been stored in the

matching table as one of matching candidates for the identifier of the first user, the

matching decision means decides that the both matching conditions are satisfied.

7. (Currently Amended) The presence management apparatus according to

claim 4,

wherein, for the first user and the second user whose identifiers are stored as

the matching candidates in said matching table, when the matching decision means

decides ~~if~~that the first user's presence which was updated does not ~~matches~~match

the matching condition designated by the second user ~~and, if it is decided that they~~

~~do not match,~~ the matching decision means deletes the identifier of the first user and

the identifier of the second user stored as the matching candidates for the identifier

of the first user from the matching ~~candidate storage means~~table.

8. (Currently Amended) An information delivery system in which a first

apparatus, a second apparatus, and a presence management apparatus are

connected via a network, for managing presence representing dynamic attribute of a

user using said first apparatus or said second apparatus,

wherein the presence management apparatus comprises:

a user table for registering therein for each user a user ID, a presence of said

user, and a matching condition for the presence which is designated by said user

with respect to another user;

presence update means for updating a first user's presence registered in said

user table based on an update request received from the first apparatus, or updating

~~and~~ a second user's presence registered in said user table based on an update

request received from the second apparatus, wherein the first user uses the first

apparatus and the second user uses the second apparatus;

matching condition registration means for registering at said user table, a

matching condition for another user's presence including the ~~first~~ second user's

presence received from the first apparatus and designated by the first user and a

matching condition for another user's presence including the ~~second~~ first user's

presence received from the second apparatus and designated by the second user;

and

matching decision means of a bidirectional matching decision between the

first and second users, for deciding if the updated first user's presence matches the

matching condition designated by the second user and the second user's presence

matches the registered matching condition designated by the first user, when the

matching condition registration means performs matching condition registration

processing ~~or the presence update means performs presence update processing for~~

~~the first user~~for the matching condition designated by the first user or the matching

condition designated by the second user, wherein

when said presence update means updated the first user's presence or the

second user's presence registered in said user table based on an update request, in

a case that said first user's presence matches with the matching condition

designated by the second user and also the second user's presence matches with

the matching condition designated by the first user, said matching decision means

decides that both of the matching conditions relating to said first user's and second

user's presences coincide with each other; and

matching notification means for, after updating process by said presence

update means, notifying the first and/or the second apparatus that, ~~if~~when the

matching decision means ~~decides~~decided that ~~the first and second user's presences~~

~~are coincident with the matching conditions designated by the second and first users,~~

~~respectively, a match has occurred~~said first user's presence matches with the

matching condition designated by the second user and also the second user's

presence matches with the matching condition designated by the first user, the

matching has been satisfied.

wherein the first apparatus comprises means for delivering information to the

second apparatus.

9. (Original) The information delivery system according to claim 8,

wherein the matching condition registered by the matching condition

registration means of the presence management apparatus includes a combination

of a logical sum and/or a logical product of a condition for two or more presences.

10. (Currently Amended) The information delivery system according to claim

8, comprising

~~wherein, for use~~a matching table for storing an identifier of the second user as

one of matching candidates for an identifier of the first user when it is decided that

the first user's presence matches the matching condition designated by the second

user and the second user's presence does not match the matching condition

designated by the first user~~, the matching decision means of the presence~~

~~management apparatus comprises matching candidate storage means for storing~~

~~therein an identifier of the first user and an identifier of the second user as one of~~

~~matching candidates and~~

~~wherein, if it is decided that the second user's presence matches the matching~~

~~condition designated by the first user, the matching decision means of the presence~~

~~management apparatus searches the matching candidates, stored in the matching~~

~~candidate storage means, to decide if the first user's presence already matches the~~

~~matching condition designated by the second user.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The information delivery system according to claim 10,

wherein, ~~if it is decided that the first user's presence does not match the matching condition designated by the second user, the matching decision means of the presence management apparatus registers an identifier of the first user and an identifier of the second user as a matching candidate~~when said matching decision means, in the decision process, searches said user table and decides that the updated second user's presence matches the matching condition designated by the first user, said matching decision means searches said matching table to check whether the identifier of the second user has been stored in the matching table as one of matching candidates for the identifier of the first user.

12. (Currently Amended) The information delivery system according to claim 11, ~~claim 10,~~

wherein, ~~if it is decided that the first user's presence matches the matching condition designated by the second user,~~said matching decision means checks said matching table, and when the identifier of the second user has been stored in the matching table as one of matching candidates for the identifier of the first user, the matching decision means of the presence management apparatus decides that the both matching conditions are satisfied.

13. (Currently Amended) The information delivery system according to claim

10,

wherein, for the first user and the second user whose identifiers are stored as

the matching candidates in said matching table, when the matching decision means

of the presence management apparatus decides ifthat the first user's presence which

was updated does not matchesmatch the matching condition designated by the

second user and, if it is decided that they do not match, the matching decision

means deletes the identifier of the first user and the identifier of the second user

stored as the matching candidates for the identifier of the first user from the matching

candidate storage meanstable.

14. (New) The presence management apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein a presence updated in response to the update request includes information

about a location of an apparatus used by said user or a status of said user.

15. (New) The information delivery system according to claim 8, wherein a

presence updated in response to the update request includes information about a

location of an apparatus used by said user or a status of said user.